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26 Eddington Lane
Willingboro, New Jersey 08046
November 1, 1967

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
300 Pasteur Drive
Palo Alto, California 94304

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I have recently come across your article in the ANNALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE, 67(3), suppl. 2, 25-7, 1967, entitled "A Geneticist Looks at Contraception and Abortion."

I quote now from page 27: "To discuss the fetus during prenatal life as if he were a human being is merely to reflect the emotional involvement of that observer,".

I would like to take issue with you on that statement. Your opinion, and those of others in science, are those of men. I think that you have very little conception of the feelings that one like I, as a mother, experience at the knowledge that one is carrying an unborn child. Women are perfectly well aware that their unborn children are alive.

I feel very strongly that a fetus as a result of a rape, or one that is known to be affected by drugs, etc., should be taken by abortion. But I do not feel that a perfectly normal, healthy fetus that was conceived simply because no form of birth control was used should be legally taken. I feel that laws encouraging abortion encourage a trend of amoral behavior.

I would very much appreciate receiving your comments.

Sincerely yours,



(Mrs.) Edward E. Roberts

BR:hs